

SENATE BILL 557

C7

6lr2414

By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gaming – Definition of “Own” – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “own” for purposes of certain provisions of law
4 governing the regulation of video lottery facilities and sports wagering to exclude a
5 certain interest in the property or business of a certain applicant or licensee under
6 certain circumstances; and generally relating to the regulation of video lottery
7 facilities and sports wagering in the State.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – State Government

10 Section 9–1A–01(a), 9–1A–05(b) and (d)(1) through (3), 9–1A–08(a)(5), (6), and (10)
11 and (d)(1), 9–1A–12, and 9–1E–03(a)(1)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – State Government

16 Section 9–1A–01(s)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – State Government**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 9-1A-01.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (s) (1) "Own" means having a beneficial or proprietary interest of at least 5%
4 in the property or business of an applicant or licensee.

5 (2) "OWN" DOES NOT INCLUDE HAVING A BENEFICIAL OR
6 PROPRIETARY INTEREST OF ~~25%~~ 15% OR LESS IN THE PROPERTY OR BUSINESS OF
7 AN APPLICANT OR LICENSEE, IF ~~THE INTEREST:~~

8 (I) THE INTEREST DOES NOT CONFER ANY VOTING RIGHTS; AND

9 (II) 1. THE INTEREST IS HELD DIRECTLY BY A PERSON; OR

10 2. THE INTEREST IS HELD IN TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT
11 OF A PERSON, PROVIDED THAT THE TRUSTEE DOES NOT EXERCISE ANY VOTING
12 RIGHTS OR CONTROL OVER THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE; AND

13 (III) BEFORE THE TRANSFER OR ISSUANCE OF THE INTEREST,
14 THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE SUBMITS:

15 1. WRITTEN NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION TO THE
16 COMMISSION, IN THE FORM REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION, THAT THE PERSON
17 DESCRIBED IN ITEM (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT DISQUALIFIED FOR A VIDEO
18 LOTTERY EMPLOYEE LICENSE UNDER § 9-1A-14(C)(1)(III) AND (IV) OF THIS
19 SUBTITLE; AND

20 2. A STATE AND NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY
21 RECORDS CHECK, INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION OF FINGERPRINTS, IN ACCORDANCE
22 WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2, PART III OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE.

23 9-1A-05.

24 (b) An owner or operator of a video lottery destination location described under §
25 9-1A-01 of this subtitle may submit an application for a video lottery operation license.

26 (d) (1) In this subsection, "owner" includes any type of owner or beneficiary of
27 a business entity, including an officer, director, principal employee, partner, investor,
28 stockholder, or beneficial owner of the business entity and, notwithstanding any other
29 provisions of this subtitle, including a person having any ownership interest regardless of
30 the percentage of ownership interest.

1 (2) An individual or business entity may not own an interest in more than
2 one video lottery facility.

3 (3) A member of the Senate of Maryland or the House of Delegates may not
4 be an owner or an employee of any business entity that holds a video lottery operation
5 license.

6 9-1A-08.

7 (a) In addition to other information required by this subtitle, a business entity
8 applying for a video lottery operation license shall provide the following information:

9 (5) the rights and privileges acquired by the holders of different classes of
10 authorized securities, partnership interests, or other similar ownership interests of the
11 business entity and its holding, intermediary, and subsidiary companies or other similar
12 business entities;

13 (6) the terms on which the securities, partnership interests, or other
14 similar ownership interests have been or are to be offered;

15 (10) the names of persons who own or control the business entity;

16 (d) The Commission shall disqualify an applicant for a video lottery operation
17 license on the basis of any of the following criteria:

18 (1) failure of the applicant to prove by clear and convincing evidence that
19 the applicant and each person who owns or controls the application are qualified under the
20 provisions of this subtitle;

21 9-1A-12.

22 If a video lottery operation licensee contracts with another person other than an
23 employee of the video lottery operation licensee to provide any of the services related to
24 operating a video lottery facility, each person and each other person who owns or controls
25 the person or management and supervisory personnel and other principal employees of the
26 person shall qualify under the standards and provisions set forth in §§ 9-1A-07 and
27 9-1A-08 of this subtitle for video lottery operation licensees.

28 9-1E-03.

29 (a) (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the requirements under §§
30 9-1A-04, 9-1A-06, 9-1A-07, 9-1A-08, 9-1A-12, 9-1A-14, 9-1A-18, 9-1A-19, 9-1A-20,
31 and 9-1A-25 of this title apply to the authority, duties, and responsibilities of the
32 Commission, a sports wagering licensee, and an employee or a contractor of a sports
33 wagering licensee under this subtitle.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.